

providing 8 months of Medicaid to those who do not qualify for COBRA coverage, and 26 weeks of unemployment compensation to those who would not normally be eligible for their state programs.

It is difficult at this time to determine how long our displaced workers will be out of work. Obviously, they are going to need financial assistance. States will do their job to assist these vulnerable citizens, but we need the federal government to help provide the funds to do so. Please work with us to enact S. 1454.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

13 STATE GOVERNORS.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from New York, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate stands in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CLELAND).

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AVIATION SECURITY ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am not going to take long. I know there are other colleagues who are going to want to speak, but I do want to talk about where we are right now in this Senate Chamber. I want to try to do that not in an abstract way but in relation to what is happening throughout the country and, particularly, I want to talk about my State of Minnesota.

Yesterday we had a field hearing in Minnesota. It was a formal hearing of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety and Training of which I am lucky enough to chair. It was just absolutely packed with people. I am not sure that is good news. I think it was packed with people because we have had a sharp economic downturn, and it affects a broad section of the population in Minnesota and around the country.

I said yesterday that I cannot remember—and I think I said this to the

distinguished Presiding Officer—another time in my adult life when I ever felt as if our country was facing three challenges or crises and all at the same time.

One of them has to do with the world that we live in—military action, use of force in Afghanistan. I have said back home that I very much want this action to be successful. I think it is terribly important that it is with the most careful targeting. I think it is essential that we do everything we know how to do to minimize the loss of innocent civilian life.

I pray for the men and women of our armed services, and, frankly, I pray no innocent Afghan, or anyone else, is killed in this process.

I had a chance to talk with the Ambassador to Pakistan today and was asking her how things were going in her country. And she, too, talked about how it is so important that what we do militarily, and in many other ways, we do in the right way. Whatever we do has to be consistent with our own values. That means, above and beyond the use of force, dealing with the humanitarian crisis, dealing with the massive hunger and starvation in Afghanistan, and doing everything we can to minimize the loss of civilian life.

Then there is the whole question of physical security in our own country. Today Chairman KENNEDY and the HELP Committee had very powerful hearings. The distinguished Chair testified about his work and some of his legislation as to what we need to do to better defend our own homeland. Then there is economic security. What I rise to discuss briefly is my indignation about some of the opposition and delay. Quite often, one person's political truth is another person's political horror. We are all different, and political truth can be illusive. We have different ideas. People of good conscience can disagree. That always is the case, including now as well.

I have to say I don't really know how any Senator, Democrat or Republican, can go home, after we have provided \$15 billion of help for the airline industry—which we should have done; I don't think they are playing Chicken Little crying that the sky is falling in—now and be unwilling to provide the employees with help.

Senator CARNAHAN has an amendment, in which a number of us have joined—it makes all the sense in the world—extending unemployment insurance to a full year, picking up the cost of COBRA or helping people get Medicaid assistance—when you lose your job, the other thing that is so terrifying in our country is, you lose your health care coverage for yourself and your loved ones—making sure that that is there, making sure the funding is there for training. I am just amazed at the opposition to this amendment. I am amazed that we have been having

to go through cloture votes, and now people want to burn up yet more time.

For my own point of view, I don't think we should move. Senator HOLLINGS is right that one of the best ways to get this industry back on its feet is to have people think they are safe. God knows the whole notion of federalizing the security forces is what the vast majority of people are for. That is apparently being opposed. There are other colleagues who talk about Amtrak and say there has to be a commitment to that as part of our transportation system. They are right.

What I want to relate today is what Senator DAYTON and other colleagues from Minnesota, Democrats and Republicans, heard at our field hearing, which was all the employees, 4,500 people out of work, who were asking: What about us? You helped the industry. Fine. But what about working families? What about us?

I said about a week ago now that I believe the people values are coming out in the country. September 11 and beyond, people really are very committed to helping one another. I can't quite figure out why that has not extended to the Senate.

There will be plenty of discussion about this in the Chamber, but as far as I am concerned, this is the place we draw the line. This airline security bill has to pass. If there is opposition to federalizing part of the security forces, so be it; we will vote on it. If there is opposition to providing the help to employees I just outlined, the Carnahan amendment, then we will vote on it. If there is opposition to other amendments, then we will vote on them.

I just can't, for the life of me, understand the opposition. I can't understand why we wouldn't want to help people flat on their back. Frankly, I don't want to go back home to Minnesota and face these employees and tell them that Congress was unwilling to provide the help.

I thank the majority leader and the whip, Senator REID, for their commitment. I am committed to this fight. We are unified as a country. There is no question about it. We have to be our own best selves. To me, part of being your own best self is to speak out and advocate for people you love and believe in who need help. That is what we are talking about right now.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am pleased to yield.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the Senator has offered a resolution—in fact, did so last week—commending the Capitol Police for the valiant work they did on September 11 and what they have done since then; is that true?

Mr. WELLSTONE. That is true. I did offer an amendment, and I was hoping that every single Senator would support it. I thought on Thursday or Friday maybe the whip could help me out.